

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203032

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4859 ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
BONN LONDON MADRID MOSCOW PARIS STOCKHOLM NATO DIA  
WASHDC USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER 25 AUGUST 75.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 4859

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4844 DTG 241825Z AUG 75

SIMMARY: OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY HAS SUSPENDED FURTHER DISSEMINATION  
OF ITS AUGUST 24 COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE OF CONTINUED SELF-SERVING  
SPECULATION CONCERNING ITS CAREFULLY-WORDED CONTENT. PRESIDENCY  
HAS DECLARED "NULL" COMMUNIQUE SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED UNILATERALLY  
BY COMMUNIST-LINING J-5 OF ARMED  
FORCES GENERAL STAFF INTERPRETING  
PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE AS REJECTIONS OF MELO ANTUNES GROUP.  
COMMUNISTS, THEIR SUPPORTERS, AND ULTRA-LEFT ARE MOUTNING FURIOUS  
LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO SAVE GONCALVES, INCLUDING FORMATION OF  
COMMON FRONT BY PCP AND ULTRA-LEFT GROUPS AND PUBLICATION OF  
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SPURIOUS REPORT OF AMBASSADOR'S EMERGENCY RETURN TO WASHINGTON  
FOLLOWING TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AND MELO ANTUNES GROUP. END  
SUMMARY.

1. BATTLE OF COMMUNIQUE: OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY THIS MORNING (AUGUST 25) ISSUED TERSE STATEMENT ORDERING SUSPENSION OF FURTHER READING OF AND COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED PREVIOUS MORNING (REFTEL). STATEMENT ALSO DECLARED "NULL" COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AUGUST 24 BY J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ELABORATING UPON ORIGINAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE. J-5 COMMUNIQUE REPEATED SUBSTANCE OF EARLIER PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE BUT WENT MUCH BEYOND IT, GIVEN PRO-GONCALVES, LEFTIST SLANT. IT INCLUDED FOLLOWING POINTS:

- SUPPORTED UNITY OF AFM ON BASIS OF RADICAL DOCUMENT PREPARED BY COPCON OFFICERS AND PROGRAM FOR DEFENSE OF REVOLUTION PREPARED BY GONCALVES GOVERNMENT;
- SUPPORTED "CONCRETE MEASURES" PROPOSED BY GONCALVES GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST MOST DISADVANTAGED CLASSES;
- REJECTED MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT.

2. FORCES TO LEFT OF MELO ANTUNES-OTELLO GROUP, INCLUDING COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS WITHIN AFM, COMMUNISTS, AND ELEMENTS OF ULTRA-LEFT, HAVE SEIZED UPON ORIGINAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE AS SUPPORTING THEIR POSITION AND IMPLICITLY REJECTING THE MELO ANTUNES MANIFESTO. MELO ANTUNES-OTELLO SUPPORTERS REFLECT GUARDED OPTIMISM AS TIME FOR DECISION NEARS. HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS CONTINUE AS ALL FACTIONS PREPARE FOR SHOWDOWN.

3. EIGHT PARTIES FORM REVOLUTIONARY FRONT: REPRESENTATIVES OF EIGHT LEFTIST PARTIES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE EARLY MORNING AUG 25 STATING THEIR AGREEMENT TO FORM A REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR THE COORDINATION OF THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THE EIGHT PARTIES WERE: PCPGN MDP/CDE, PRP-BR, FSP, LCI, LUAR, MES, AND 1 DE MAIO. COMMUNIQUE SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFM WERE ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING WHICH DREW UP COMMUNIQUE. COMMUNIQUE ENDORSED FOLLOWING POINTS:

- CREATION OF COMMON FRONT AMONG REVOLUTIONARY PARTIES, AFM, AND UNITARY ORGANIZATIONS FOSTERED BY AFM PROGRAM FOR "DIRECT DEMOCRACY."
- ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT TO SERVE AS A CONFIDENTIAL

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COORDINATING BODY.

- SUPPORT FOR THE COPCON DOCUMENT AND THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM PRESENTED BY THE GONCALVES GOVERNMENT.
- AN APPEAL TO OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES OR INDIVIDUALS TO JOIN THE COMMON FRONT.

4. CUNHAL UPBEAT AT EVOA RALLY: A CROWD NUMBERING IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS ATTENDED AN AUGUST 24 RALLY IN EVORA CALLED BY THE PCP, WITH THE ADHERENCE OF THE MDP/CE, MES, AND FSP. PCP SECRETARY GENERAL ALVARO CUNHAL ADDRESSED RALLY. IN A GENERALLY UPBEAT SPEECH, HE AFFIRMED THAT, AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS BY REVOLUTIONARY FORCES, REACTION WAS "BEGINNING TO RETREAT." CUNHAL COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON APRIL 24, PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE, WHICH

HE TERMED "IMPORTANT" BY VIRTUE OF ITS PROVISIONS REGARDING:  
THE AFM, THE GOVERNMENT; THE NEED TO RESTORE PUBLIC AUTHORITY AND  
ORDER. SPECIFICALLY CINHAL SAID:

--AFM MUST BE RESTRUCTURED SO AS TO GUARANTEE ITS ROLE AS  
VANGUARD OF REVOLUTION:

--GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE RESTRUCTURED. IT IS WORKING  
WELL, WITH ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION, AND ITS REPLACEMENT  
WOULD AGGRAVATE PRESENT CRISIS.

--PUBLIC ORDER MUST BE RESTORED. VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT IS RESULT  
OF PS LEADERSHIP'S ANTI-COMMUNIST ATTITUDE.

CUNHAL CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR UNITY OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES AND  
AFM AND EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY OF PROGRESSIVE  
FORCES TO DEFEAT REACTION.

5. VIOLENCE: INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT ON AUGUST  
24 INCLUDED:

GAAHORTA, AZORES: 2,000 DEMONSTRATORS SUCCESSFULLY DEMANDED THE  
CLOSING OF THE LOCAL PCP OFFICE, THE REMOVAL OF PCP LEADERS  
FROM FAIAL, AND THE CANCELLATION OF AN ORDER TO TRANSFER TO SAO  
MIGUEL OF TWO POLICEMEN ACCUSED OF SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES.

--LEIRIA: FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF BISHOP, CROWD  
SACKED THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE MDP/CDE. A SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPT  
AGAINST PCP OFFICES WAS FOILED BY INTERVENTION OF TROOPS.

--SERZEDO: MDP/CDE OFFICE SACKED IN UNOPPOSED EARLY MORNING  
RAID.

6. CDS RALLY: LARGE CROWDS ATTENDING CDS RALLY IN POVOA DE  
VARZIM ON AUGUST 24 HEARD SPEAKERS AMARO DA COSTA, FREITAS  
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DE AMARAL, AND GALVAO DE MELO ATTACK PCP, VASCO GONCALVES,  
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND OTELO. FOLLOWING RALLY, REPORTER  
AND PHOTOGRAPHER FOR LEFTIST JOURNAL DE NOTICIAS (OPORTO) WERE  
ROUGHED UP BY CROWD.

7. PRO-CORVACHO DEMONSTRATION PLANNED: A GROUP OF OPORTO  
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS AND WORKER'S COUNCILS HAS SCHEDULED A  
DEMONSTRATION AUGUST 25 TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR BRIG. EURICO  
CORVACHO, WHO WAS RELIEVED OF COMMAND OF THE NORTHERN MILITARY  
REGION ON AUGUST 19. PCP HAS ENDORSED DEMONSTRATION.

8. COMMENT: AS A DECISION TO OUST GONCALVES AT LAST APPEARS TO  
BE AT HAND, COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS WITHIN AFM, COMMUNISTS, AND  
ELEMENTS OF ULTRA-LEFT ARE PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS IN LAST  
DITCH EFFORT TO SAVE THE SITUATION. THE DESPERATION FELT BY  
THE LEFT IS REFLECTED IN THE UNPRECEDENTED AND PROBABLY SHORT-LIVED  
WORKING ALLIANCE FORMED BY THE PCP AND ITS BITTER ENEMIES ON  
THE FAR LEFT. THE EASILY CHECKED STORY ABOUT THE AMBASSADOR'S  
ALLEGED DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON FOLLOWING EMERGENCY MEETINGS  
WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE MELO ANTUNES GROUP (SEPTEL) IS  
PROBABLY CALCULATED TO HAVE NO MORE  
THAN A 24-HOUR EFFECT, PRECISELY THE TIMEFRAME IN WHICH

GONCALVES OUSTER HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY THE MELO ANTUNES-OTELLO  
GROUP.  
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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